

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 26, 2016
Rockport Town Hall, Conference Room A

In Attendance: Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders, Jon Horvath

Guests: Sandy Jacques, Zenas Seppala, Tom Mikas

Meeting Opened: 2:02 p.m.

Minutes of October 22, 2015 Meeting: Approval deferred.

High Street and Main Street – Stop Sign: Discussion deferred until the next Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting.

Broadway and Mt. Pleasant Street: Mr. Jacques spoke in favor of the stop sign in the intersection of Broadway and Mt. Pleasant Street. He asked the Committee to consider adding an additional stop sign on Mt. Pleasant Street by T- Wharf to increase the safety for pedestrians. Horvath explained the primary purpose of a stop sign is to define who has the right of way in an intersection. For this reason, he would support a three way stop sign in this intersection over two stop signs. There was discussion about the details of this intersection and current traffic problems. The speed limit is currently 20 MPH. Parisi recommended gathering more data by doing a trial of stop signs; similar to the process used in a previous year in the Five Corners Intersection. Parisi moved to do a pilot test for stop signs in the intersection; Horvath seconded and it was voted unanimously. Discussion of the data will follow at a subsequent meeting.

Granite Street and Rowe Avenue: Mr. Jacques asked the Committee to develop a policy that requires lettering in the street at each intersection that currently has a stop sign. Parisi agreed to assess the time and money required to add signage in the street at each intersection that currently has a stop sign and then assess the cost to maintain the written signage. The stop sign at the intersection of Granite Street and Rowe Avenue would then be included in this proposed change. Parisi agreed to do a site visit to review the current signage.

Railroad Avenue: Mr. Jacques is concerned with the amount of traffic and the speed of the traffic going from Pigeon Cove toward Five Corners on Railroad Avenue. Sanders reminded the Committee that a speed study had been done within the past few years; currently the speed limit is 25 MPH. Horvath gathered some data recently and it validated the current speed limit. Jacques advocated for a reduction of the speed limit to 15 MPH on Railroad Avenue; Horvath

reviewed the process with Mass DOT to change speed limit and again reiterated that the current data does not support a change in speed limit. Parisi reminded the Committee that the placement of the crosswalks will be reviewed prior to repaving the road in the spring. The Committee agreed to put further discussion of the speed limit on the pending list and will review the placement of crosswalks before repaving the road.

Five Corners: Mr. Jacques asked the Committee to consider changing the intersection to a five-way stop. He spoke of his frustration with the traffic back-ups and the driver's lack of etiquette that occurs here, especially in the summertime. The back-ups usually slow drivers coming from Railroad Avenue. He is recommending a trial of the five-way stop occur during the winter. Sanders reported that this Committee had study the traffic patterns in this intersection in the recent past and did not recommend any changes at that time. Horvath agrees the intersection is a challenge however the accident rate remains very low in this area. He suggested that five-way stops would be very confusing to the drivers and generally when major changes are considered in an intersection like this, the addition of a rotatory is discussed. Parisi reminded the Committee that the addition of the striped lines and painted hash marks has improved the flow of traffic. Sanders asked for a motion on this request; none were given. The Committee does not recommend any changes in this intersection at this time. Mr. Jacques plans to circulate a citizen's petition to the Board of Selectman to support his recommendation for a five-way stop in this intersection.

Adjournment: Parisi moved to adjourn at 3:05 p.m. and Horvath seconded and it was voted unanimously.